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WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Waging Peace: From Protest to Resistance

Speech delivered by TJ Johnson at the March 24 Olympia peace rally

This week we mourn the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, an illegal and immoral act of aggression that many Americans now understand to be the greatest foreign policy blunder in US history. As we reflect on the past four years, it is also important to remember that the drumbeats of war began long before March 2003. In fact, they started just five hours after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and the other architects of this violence ordered underlings in the Defense and State Departments to begin building the case for a pre-emptive war against Iraq, which they knew had nothing to do with the attacks of September 11.

This cabal of criminals who led us to war down a path paved with lies, deliberate misinformation and distorted propaganda are the same people who assured us that US soldiers would be hailed as liberators, that the war would be over in weeks, that the costs would be minimal, and who dismissed claims to the contrary as "the typical hysteria from the left."

It's now four years later and it seems only appropriate to ask: Who was right? The answer to this question is obvious. Today, we continue to be mired in the midst of bloody civil war and military occupation that has now taken the lives of over 3,200 US soldiers, hundreds of journalists, and perhaps as many as 650,000 Iraqi civilians.

The National Priorities Project estimates the cost of the war now exceeds $411 billion. The cost to Thurston County residents alone exceeds $337 million. Had this money not been spent in the pursuit of violence against a sovereign country that posed no threat to our safety and security, our county's share of the cost could have built over 3,000 units of affordable housing, provided health care to over 200,000 children, or provided a four year college scholarship to over 16,000 high school graduates.

As we reflect on the past four years, it is also important to look into the mirror and consider how we, as members of the peace movement, have performed. Remember back in 2002, before the invasion? Tens of millions of us around the planet marched, rallied and demonstrated against the invasion. And while this effort was important, we also know it was ultimately ineffective.

In the weeks and months after the invasion, back in the halcyon days of "Mission Accomplished" and soaring presidential approval ratings, some of us continued to speak out, though our numbers were much smaller. However, as the violence continued unchecked through 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, our numbers began to grow again. By last November, a strong majority of Americans knew that the peace movement had been right all along. We turned out in record numbers to vote for a change in direction, sending a clear message to the new Democratic congressional majority that it was time to end this national nightmare, to bring our troops home, and to begin to repair our shattered standing among the community of civilized nations. After the election, many of those who voted for change slipped back into the comfort of their daily routines, convinced that their voice had been heard and the end of the war was near.

At the Port of Tacoma, Phan Nguyen speaks to the protections provided in the First and Fourth Amendments to the US Consitution, which allow him to carry a backpack (or in his case, a "frontpack") at a peaceful demonstration. His sign reads "Keep the 4th Brigade home." Photo by Carrie Lybecker

Unfortunately, it has become crystal clear over the past 3 months that the Democratic majority has failed to understand their mandate, and we the people are failing to hold them accountable. Rather than bringing our troops home, they offered only token opposition—in the form of non-binding resolutions—as Bush began a dangerous escalation of the conflict. Rather than using the power of the purse, the one tool clearly within their authority, the House only yesterday agreed to extend the war for at least another 18 months, and to spend another $120 billion in pursuit of this failed policy. Anti-war voices within the Democratic Party are routinely marginalized by party leadership, while first tier presidential candidates like Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama promise a sustained US presence in Iraq, coupled with threats, including the use of nuclear weapons, against Iran, Syria and other nations who would dare to question US hegemony in the region.

All of this makes it painfully obvious to me that Congress will not stop this war, nor prevent the next one. Therefore it is up to us. The time has clearly come to move from passive protest to active resistance. We must wage peace with the same intensity that the forces of darkness wage war. The days of standing on a corner with a sign, or writing a letter to your senator, or voting for your favorite Democrat and believing that action is sufficient to change the course of history must be complemented with active and sustained resistance.

TJ Johnson arrested for crossing a police barrior as he delivered a Citizen's Injunction (see pg 5), March 11. Photo by Gail Johnson

People all over the country seem to have reached this same conclusion. In San Francisco, activists have maintained a continuous presence at the mansion of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, demanding that she put her political ambitions aside and start representing her constituents. Hundreds of citizens have been arrested and drug from the offices of their Senators and Congressional representatives as part of The Occupation Project, which demands accountability from our elected officials. Citizens have blocked recruiting stations from Times Square to Eugene, Oregon to counter the false promises used to seduce young men and women into risking their lives for a lie. And last week 44 people were arrested on Wall Street for delaying the opening of the New York stock exchange to highlight the role of corporate war profiteers.

Here in our own community just weeks ago, members of the Port Militarization Resistance movement successfully prevented the deployment of the 4th Stryker Brigade through the Port of Olympia with a coordinated campaign of public education, aggressive lobbying and commitments to non-violent civil disobedience. When the Army was forced to shift operations to the Port of Tacoma, we moved north to help our friends in Tacoma prevent their port from being used to export death. For over 10 days we directly confronted the war machine with non-violent resistance, while at the same time watching our fellow citizens being abused by hyper-militarized law enforcement agencies who seemed intent on suppressing our constitutional rights to dissent from the misguided policies of a government drunk with violence.

> We will no longer allow you to use our public facilities to export your illegal wars of aggression, and if you try to do so we will be there to confront you in our ports, in our streets, in our media, in our jails, in our courtrooms, and everywhere else you dare commit violence in our name.

I am so honored to have been among those people who stood up for peace in Tacoma when we attempted to deliver a Citizens' Injunction to stop the shipment of war supplies. The inspiration I found from my fellow patriots and cell mates, many of whom are here today, has given me a renewed determination to work for peace. If the powers that be believe that arresting me and 36 others has done anything to diminish our resolve, they should listen closely:

We will no longer allow you to use our public facilities to export your illegal wars of aggression, and if you try to do so we will be there to confront you in our ports, in our streets, in our media, in our jails, in our courtrooms, and everywhere else you dare commit violence in our name.

People across the planet are hungry for peace, and news of our actions in Tacoma has spread throughout the country and around the globe, providing a beacon of hope for other communities struggling to end their participation in war and oppose the expansion of the US military empire.

Let me close by sharing a message I received yesterday from Mr. Shoji Niihara, a member of the Japan Peace Committee and one of the 25 Japanese peace activists who visited Olympia last summer to learn about our resistance to weapons and war, and to build one more link in the expanding global alliance against US militarism. [See "Message from a Japan Peace Activist" on page 5.]

No More Compromise! No More Passive Resistance! No More War!

TJ Johnson is an Olympia City Councilmember and organizer with the Olympia Port Militarization Resistance.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *wip@zhonka.net* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

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Wally Cuddeford	hali panneton
Christian DesMarets	Sandia Slaby
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Teresa Jennings	Pat Tassoni
David Lavender	Scott Yoos

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

ON THE COVER: Olympia City Councilmember TJ Johnson climbs over a police barrier — an act of civil resistance to shipments of military equipment to Iraq through the Port of Tacoma — a subject widely covered in this issue of ***WIP***. (*photo by Carrie Lybecker*)

Below that, Thurston County Detective Mike Hirte is intercepted by one of the Oly 22 defendants, but refuses to answer anything. All he's willing to say is, **"my name isn't edmund-dot-bob."** But maybe he's **edmund.bob@gmail.com**. If not, he knows who it is. **See story on page 11.** (*photo by Wally Cuddeford*)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
April 20

PO Box 295 • Olympia WA 98507
submissions@olywip.org • www.olywip.org

WIP Advertising
(360) 956-1136

7.25" x 4.75"	$125
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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Alliance for Democracy and the Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee present the movie: Thirst.

Friday, April 6 at 7:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2200 East End Street NW, in West Olympia.

Is water part of a shared "commons," a human right for all people? Or is it a commodity to be traded in a global marketplace? "Thirst" tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking these fundamental questions. Over a billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Each year, millions of children die of diseases caused by unsafe water. The numbers are increasing. Who gets to decide who gets the water? You'll be surprised at the answers!

Catch this movie series every First Friday of the month.

To find out more, visit www.sounddemocracy.org.

Fight Global Warming!

Join us for the First Annual 'Climate Action Day' festival.

Saturday, April 14, Noon to 4:00 pm, at Sylvester Park in downtown Olympia.

This is one of over a THOUSAND events occurring on this day. The theme is "80% reduction in CO2 use by 2050" and how we get there. Featuring speakers, music, booths, children's table, teen circle, 'Green Drive' display, Global Warming Cafe with Carbon Diet booth---measure your Carbon footprint and set up program to reduce CO2 emissions. Visit a permaculture demonstration or go on a futuristic 'Waterfront Tour' (year 2050) and more. Look for wandering Polar Bears and Penguins.

Also, 4:00 to 6:00 pm slide show at MXX96 meeting room, State Ave and Washington St. on solutions to global warming, discussion follows.

Go to www.stepitup2007.org for more info. Locally: contact Janet Jordan 352-0770 or Chris Stegman 705-3528 to get involved. Email: c.stegman@comcast.net if your group wants a booth or display.

Related films will be shown at various locations on Friday April 13. Look for details.

The Alliance for Democracy and the Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee present the movie: Sophie Scholl.

Friday, May 4, at 7:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2200 East End Street NW, in West Olympia. Catch this movie series every First Friday of the month.

True story—1943. In the height of Nazi Germany, a small group of students and former soldiers formed the White Rose resistance movement. They created leaflets to distribute around the Third Reich. In blunt and idealist terms: they demanded Germans recognize the crimes against humanity and resist, sabotage and, undermine both the war machine and the propaganda of the Hitler government. Eventually betrayed and guillotined, they had unflinching courage, commitment to the truth and human values, even when faced with the iron fist of totalitarianism. A story of uncompromising principle tried by unprincipled power. It bears witness to our own times.

To find out more, visit www.sounddemocracy.org .

Natural Learning Is Up For Grabs!

Natural Learning is an alternative publication which for the past 2 years has provided Olympia Free School with a medium for informing the community about our classes and other educational alternatives. Natural Learning needs to fill three positions to continue to provide a dependable resource for alternatives in education, in Olympia. Experience with non-profit groups in the areas of writing, fundraising, editing, advertising, or publishing are desired, but not required. We are also willing to train the right candidates for these positions. Volunteer positions can be accommodated as internships, or you can chalk it up as another learning opportunity. If interested, we'd be glad to provide the energy in showing you a new skill. After all we are the Olympia Free School!

For additional information, contact Paul: naturallearning@riseup.net or (206) 551 -9630

Works In Progress
has a new email address!
submissions@olywip.org

With your $support

Works In Progress is moving forward

It has been several months since *Works In Progress* put out a call for one or more people to step into its central coordination role. That long-awaited dream has now been realized in two highly revered Olympia activists, Janet Blanding and Wally Cuddeford, who together will coordinate the content and production of this newspaper. Now that the April issue has gone to press, Janet and Wally are eager to dive in.

That's the good news. The other news is that *Works In Progress* is out of money. Our dedication to keeping this all-volunteer staffed, free community newspaper rolling off the presses each month has kept us far too busy to organize a big fundraising extravaganza. Instead, at this time, we are simply asking readers for donations. (Unless you'd like to organize a big fundraising extravaganza.)

If you are someone who values this resource personally and recognizes its value to the community as a whole, please contribute what you can. And if possible, please do it now because now is when we need it.

Send checks to:
Works In Progress, PO Bos 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Or click on the "support wip" link at **www.olywip.org** for instructions on donating through PayPal.

The May issue of *Works In Progress* will be our 17-year anniversary edition. With your support, this cherished grassroots media resource will continue to thrive through its eighteenth year and well beyond.

With love for this project and the struggle it serves,

Sandy

April 2007

When raised in a world where there are no "competing" concepts of "how the world is constructed" and who and what matters, our beliefs about the world are held "in a dull and muddled and jumbled fashion"; often times "contradictory." And when such a society is also "saturated" with racism, nationalism, militarism, etc, we are shaped by the "everyday experiences", unconsciously absorbing these conceptions "in an unspoken subtext." If we do not become aware of these "influences", we will be "tripped up" by these unacknowledged ideas and fail to see "other people with parallel needs"; harming ourselves "as well as others who matter in our lives."

Source: The Racist Mind: Portraits of American Neo-Nazis and Klansmen by Raphael s. Ezekiel

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1 2006: Oglala Sioux Tribe proposes abortion clinic on rez in response to S Dakota's near-total abortion ban	**2** 2006: Poll reveals over half of Americans favor temporary worker status, view illegal workers as contributing to society	**3** 2003: Jessica Lynch father says she was not shot or stabbed 2006: Tom DeLay to give up his House seat	**4** 2006: NY Times analysis of IRS data finds Bush's investment tax cuts mostly benefit wealthiest of Americans	**5** 2003: Brian Avery of Albuquerque NM, a human shield in the West Bank, is shot in the head by Israeli Army	**6** 2006: Attorney Gen Gonzales says Bush could order warrantless wiretaps on calls occurring solely within US	**7** 2006: US/European Union suspend aid to Palestinian gov for not recognizing Israel or renouncing violence
8 2004: 9-11 committee reveals Aug 6, 2006 president's daily brief refers to al-Qaida's plans to attack the US	**9** 2006: In series of state hearings, Alaskans tell government to seek additional damages from Exxon Mobil	**10** 2006: Health officials rule out abortion pill RU-486 in 1 of 2 recent deaths; the other remains under investigation	**11** 2003: Pentagon rejects criticism that they are allowing looting in Iraq; "stuff happens" according to Rumsfeld	**12** 2006: White House denies any deliberate effort to mislead the public in 2003 about weapons in Iraq	**13** 2006: Two more retired generals who led troops in Iraq speak out against Rumsfeld, call for his removal	**14** 2006: Fed appeals court rules LAPD cannot arrest people for sitting, lying, or sleeping on public sidewalks
15 2003: WA senate overturns inititative mandating smaller class size, yet extends tech company tax breaks	**16** 1998: Pew poll reveals officials, appointees, high-level bureaucrats think public clueless in how to resolve issues	**17** 2006: Man who killed two sex offenders in Maine got their names from the state's online sex offender registry	**18** 2006: In response to calls for Rumsfeld's removal Bush says he is "the decider" and he'll decide what is best	**19** 2006: Rep-controlled TN Senate unseats Dem member saying her 13-vote win tainted by questionable ballots	**20** 2006: Contradicting 1999 Inst of Med review, FDA declares no studies support medical use of smoked marijuana	**21** 2006: Study of AIDS in GA prisons shows 90% of hiv-positive inmates were infected prior to imprisonment
22 2006: Rumsfeld approves world-wide intellegence gathering in expanded global plan to fight terrorism	**23** 2003: US Department of Energy announces it will restart its production of weapons grade plutonium	**24** 2004: North Korean official offers to freeze a plutonium-based nuclear program in exchange for aid	**25** 2006: Fox News' Tony Snow to be White House press secretary; he's assured he will be part of policy discussions	**26** 2006: FL ends military boot camp for troubled teens after death from camp beating	**27** 2006: Granny Peace Brigade innocent of blocking access while in line to enlist at Times Square	**28** 2006: Bush says Nat'l Anthem should only be "sung in English"
29 1945: US troops liberate Dachau 2004: Bush wants to include hatchery fish in wild salmon counts	**30** 1997: US District judge blocks feds from punishing CA doctors who recommend medical marijuana	The militant racists let us see the racist parts of our souls with few filters; we should observe and learn. Raphael S Ezekiel				

Rachel Corrie's detractors seek to silence message of Hope and Peace

by Steve Niva

A year after Rachel Corrie was crushed to death while defending a Palestinian home from demolition by an Israeli army bulldozer in the Gaza Strip, I visited the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel's army and illegal Israeli settlements to see the massive Israeli wall that will enclose Palestinians within small enclaves of land.

I met a Palestinian man and his young child sitting near a poster of Rachel Corrie, which were all over the area, as they watched their family's olive tree orchard razed by Israeli bulldozers to build this wall. I told him that she had been a student at my college in the US and that I knew her family. He told me his village had just held a one-year memorial service in her honor because she had given them hope for peace; she showed them that the Palestinian people were not forgotten by the world.

By contrast, the shrill agitation by some against the very staging of the play *My Name is Rachel Corrie* at the Seattle Repertory Theater, and factually false articles about Rachel Corrie castigating Corrie as a stooge of terrorists can only be explained as an attempt to silence the hope and message of peace that is Rachel Corrie's true legacy.

Hope is the antidote to despair and violence. And it is hopelessness and despair that Palestinians have felt in the past few decades as their land has been relentlessly stolen from beneath their feet to build spacious Israeli settlements and their future whittled down to caged enclosures surrounded by an Israeli wall.

It is hopelessness and despair that Palestinians have felt in the past few decades as their land has been relentlessly stolen from beneath their feet to build spacious Israeli settlements and their future whittled down to caged enclosures surrounded by an Israeli wall.

One can certainly blame the ineffectual Palestinian leadership for many mistakes and one can blame Palestinian extremists for damaging the moral justness of the Palestinian cause through murderous and strategically worthless suicide attacks.

But none of this justifies Israel continuing to illegally steal Palestinian land to build new settlements or building a wall deep within Palestinian land to annex these settlements, nor does it prevent Israel from taking unilateral steps to vacate completely the land that it has illegally occupied since 1967. Moreover, none of this should cause one to blindly support Israeli policies that crush the hope that Rachel Corrie helped nurture.

But instead of joining with Jimmy Carter, Rachel Corrie and countless others, many Israeli and Jewish, who recognize that Israel's occupation and settlements are unjustified and prevent peace, these critics peddle defamation and falsehoods about Corrie masquerading as reasonable criticism.

They are showing they will slander and discredit anyone who dares to understand Palestinian's legitimate grievances with Israel or acknowledge that Israel itself has committed grave and well documented abuses of Palestinian human rights. And they are providing cover for the very extremist Israeli policies of land theft, colonization and abuse that have created a fertile ground for extremism and violence, not hope.

For how else can one explain the constant repetition of false claims about Rachel Corrie that are no longer taken seriously, in many cases by Israel itself?

First, claiming that Corrie was defending terrorists is contradicted by the fact that the Israeli army has never claimed nor provided any evidence that Dr. Samir Nasrallah, whose house Corrie was defending, or anyone else in that neighborhood of Gaza, were concealing any tunnels or were engaged in any attacks on Israelis.

Second, claiming that Corrie was providing cover for suicide bombers is easily proven false by the fact that no Palestinian suicide bombers inside Israel had come from Gaza three years before nor during the time Corrie was there.

Third, claiming that Corrie was working for a pro-terrorist and anti-Israel organization is contradicted by the fact that the International Solidarity Movement to End the Occupation is composed of leading Palestinian voices of non-violence and supported by numerous Israeli peace groups.

Fourth, claiming that by resisting Israel's home demolitions in Gaza Corrie threatened Israel's security is contradicted by the fact that these home demolitions were meant for one reason: to take more land for the 7,000 Israeli settlers who illegally occupied 30 per cent of Gaza's land.

Israel's more fervent defenders justify Israel's occupation and settlements with the continually recycled myth that Israel has always extended its hand of peace while Palestinians have always rejected it. This myth conveniently ignores the fact that Israel's "generous offer" at Camp David in 2000 was based on Israel annexing the bulk of its settlements thereby cutting any Palestinian state into five tiny enclaves surrounded by Israel. And many tout Israel's recent withdrawal from Gaza, but they ignore Israel's withering siege upon its imprisoned population.

Some also justify the status quo by emphasizing the immutable extremism of Hamas. But the fact is that Hamas has not conducted a single suicide bombing in nearly two years and has endorsed a reciprocal truce with Israel if it were to withdraw completely to its 1967 borders. But Israel completely rejects these terms, thereby missing an historic opportunity to undercut Hamas and create a new dynamic towards diplomacy.

Rachel Corrie was one of the central organizers of the first-ever Procession of the Species peace doves in 2002. Photo by Eli Sterling

Those who truly support a balanced and just peace in the Middle East should honestly debate the life and legacy of Rachel Corrie. Her very act of acknowledging legitimate Palestinians' grievances and her promotion of alternatives to violence was a message of hope and peace that is sorely lacking today.

By attacking the messenger, Rachel Corrie's detractors are sending a clear message opposed to hope and peace.

Steve Niva teaches International Politics and Middle East Studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA.

Letter to the Olympia City Council in support of the Olympia–Rafah Sister City Project

Dear City Councilmen and Women,

It has come to my attention that the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project is attempting to effect an official sister-city relationship with the cities of Olympia, Washington and Rafah, Gaza. By now you are no doubt aware of the many reasons they wish to pursue this, including to pay tribute to Rachel Corrie whose untimely death in Gaza on March 16th, 2003 should have been met with outrage across the United States. Instead it was met with silence or, in some cases, the vicious attempt to distort what happened to her and why. Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by a D9 Bulldozer as it cleared the land adjacent to, and sought to destroy, the homes of residents in Rafah whose sole crime was that they lived too close to a "closed military zone" proclaimed by the Israeli Army on occupied land in Gaza. Rachel, along with a number of other members of the International Solidarity Movement, sought –through non-violent means– to disrupt this pattern of home demolitions and the subsequent displacement of thousands of people. Since 2001 more than 23,000 Gazans have been forced from their homes as the result of Israeli home demolition policies. Seventeen thousand of these people came from Rafah.

Palestinian children in Rafah in Gaza. Photo by Myra J. Capulong

In addition to paying tribute to Rachel, the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project members hope to establish badly needed humanitarian ties to the people of Rafah in an act of solidarity and friendship. The importance of such ties should not be underestimated or dismissed especially at a time when it is easier to demonize and denounce Palestinians and Arab and Muslim groups across the Middle East than to embrace and accept them. The United States gives Israel between 3 and 5 billion dollars each year for military and financial purposes. The people of Palestine are invariably on the receiving end of the military hardware Israel is using to enforce an illegal and increasingly deadly occupation. It would be well worth the efforts and consideration of city councils across this country to find ways to mitigate the damage done to the image of the United States as it backs the unconscionable and illegal policies of Israel. Sanctioning official twinning relationships is one way in which the citizens of the US can reach out to people in the occupied Palestinian territories and elsewhere in the region as an indication of genuine goodwill and the desire for mutual understanding and cooperation.

Why not broaden those bonds to include people we have tended to ignore or diminish over the years?

Having lived in Rafah, Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East, I cannot overstate the importance of repairing the damaged reputation of the US across that diverse, ancient and beautiful region. In Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt I was treated with kindness, curiosity, openness and hospitality unmatched in my travels to other regions of the world. This is remarkable not only because of the growing sentiment against US government policies there but because it so dramatically contrasts with

▸ **Rafah Sister City** continued on next page

▸ **Rafah Sister City** letter continued from previous page

the image of the Middle East that the average American receives through the mass media here. To say I was treated with great consideration and respect while living in or traveling to various Middle Eastern cities understates my point. I am an American, a woman, and a Jew—and yet was never treated rudely or dismissively. On the contrary, I found people all the more eager to talk to me to try to understand why it was the United States persisted in seeing them so negatively. Again and again I heard the same comments, "we are against the government of the US, not its people. You are welcome here always," and—with regard to my being Jewish I heard repeatedly, "we are not anti-Jewish; we are against the occupation and against Zionism. There is a big difference for us. We want to live in peace with the Jews."

Those who treat such statements suspiciously have only to spend time in these regions or in the company of the people they fear to find out for themselves whether or not they are sincere, open to discussion, compromise and cooperation. In my experience compassion, a sense of shared humanity, and the desire to resolve conflicts and communicate openly with people is met overwhelmingly with similar sentiments wherever one might travel and in particular in the Middle East where conflict has defined life for so many people for such a long time. This is perhaps the most important reason of all to welcome the chance to twin with a city like Rafah, whose people have endured so much and who yet still reach out to us with hope and the desire for friendship.

There are many sistering relationships across the US with cities and towns in Israel. These are equally commendable and desirable and for the same reason—to emphasize our shared interests and common humanity. Why not broaden those bonds to include people we have tended to ignore or diminish over the years? We have only ideals and the pressing desire to stop what sometimes seems an inexorable slide into conflict and war to keep us from despair. Let's try to make these ideals and desires concrete by building bridges across nations rather than hateful barriers and roadblocks between them.

Rachel Corrie

Sincerely,
Jennifer Loewenstein,
Founder, Madison-Rafah
Sister City Project
Madison, WI

Jennifer Loewenstein is a Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre. She has lived and worked in Gaza City, Beirut and Jerusalem and has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, where she has worked as a freelance journalist and a human rights activist.

Citizen's Injunction

to Halt the Shipment of Military Material to Iraq

Whereas, the invasion and occupation of Iraq is contrary to the rule of law inasmuch as it defies agreements that expressly prohibit the belligerent and aggressive invasion of a sovereign nation, and

Whereas, the invasion and occupation of Iraq defies both the letter, and the spirit, of internationally and domestically recognized legal statutes such as the United Nations Charter, the Nuremberg Tribunal Charter, the Geneva Conventions and the United States War Crimes Act, and

Whereas, the invasion and occupation of Iraq has resulted in a humanitarian crisis of significant proportions, and

Whereas, the escalation of conflict in Iraq is counterproductive to the goal of establishing a stable sovereign nation, and

Whereas a majority of United States Citizens oppose both the occupation of Iraq and the escalation of the conflict through the deployment of additional United States military forces, and

Whereas, the cost of the invasion and occupation of Iraq now exceeds $500 billion dollars, money which could have been spent to meet domestic and international needs needs such as health care, education, and the provision of essential public infrastructure, and

Whereas the best way to support United States soldiers is to prevent them from being placed into the middle of a conflict in which they have a high risk of killing and being killed, and

Whereas I have exhausted every legal means available to me to petition my elected leaders for the cessation of conflict, and

Whereas, under legal precedent and historical practice, control over the American military rests firmly within the civilian population,

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, the undersigned, as a citizen of the United States of America, do hereby prohibit the shipment of military vehicles belonging to the 4th Brigade through the publicly funded Port of Tacoma.

Signed on this Eleventh day of March in the year 2007.

"My Name is Rachel Corrie" comes to Olympia

South Sound residents interested in seeing the one-woman production "My Name is Rachel Corrie" won't have to travel to Seattle to see the play.

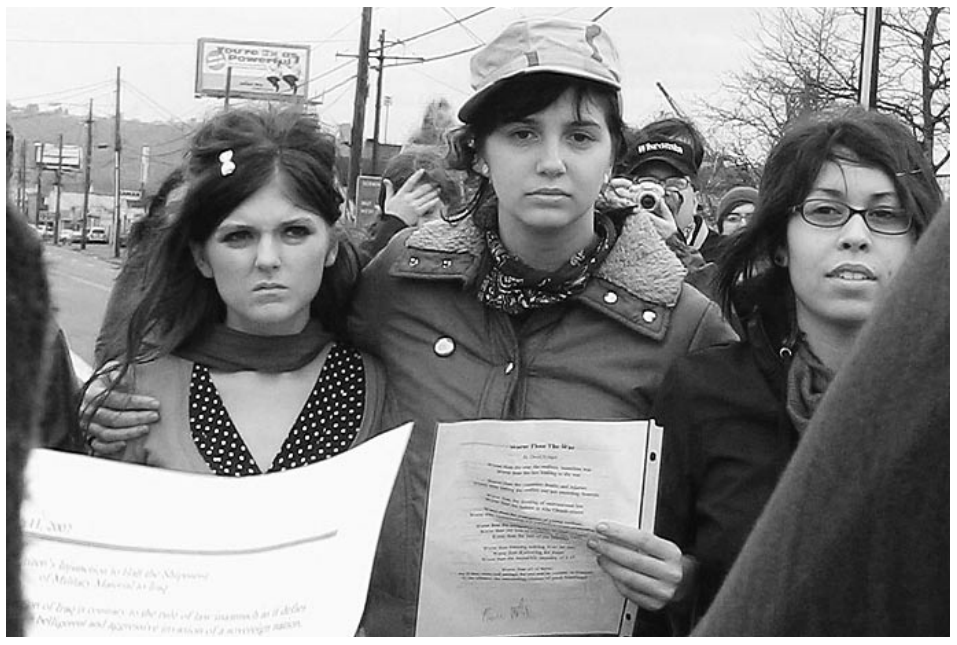
The Seattle Repertory Theater will bring its production to the Evergreen State College campus for five shows, April 26-29. Corrie was a student at Evergreen before her death in 2003.

The first show, a tech dress preview, will be at 8:00 pm on April 26. Evergreen students will be admitted free, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The remaining shows will be open to the general public. They are at 8:00 pm on April 27 and 28, and at 2 pm on April 28 and 29.

Tickets are $30 for general admission and $20 for students and seniors. They will go on sale at noon, April 2, at the Evergreen box office and bookstore, as well as at Rainy Day Records in downtown Olympia. A block of tickets will be sold at www.buyolympia.com.

The phone number for the box office is 360-867-6833; box office hours are noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Amanda Askea, Rosie Math, and Brooke Stepp with copies of the Citizen's Injunction (see above). They were arrested for crossing a police barrier in an attempt to deliver the injunction to law enforcement. Photo by Gail Johnson

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A message of solidarity from Japan

YOUR RESISTANCE IS OURS

I applaud your magnificent resistance against illegal the war and occupation in Iraq. The very active work by all of you to protest the shipment of war machines to Iraq has encouraged us and given us an impetus to renew our efforts to prevent the US military from using our land for war of aggression anywhere in the world.

I admire the "Citizen's Injunction to Halt the Shipment of Military Material to Iraq." It is a true manifestation of the people's democracy, descending from Thomas Paine, Henry David Thoreau, and Martin Luther King, Jr. It shows the way to accuse and condemn criminality of the Iraq War by the Bush Administration. It also helps to stimulate our fighting instinct to stop the murderous act worldwide from US military bases in Japan.

Japan has been transformed into the number one unsinkable aircraft carrier for US war strategy. Your resistance is ours.

Your activities for peace are strongly supported by us and by many Japanese people who love peace.

We thank the people of Olympia and the South Puget Sound in their struggle against the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Thank you, Lt. Watada. Thank you, TJ Johnson.

Let us unite closely in order to stop the wars of aggression and to remove all US military bases abroad.

Let us unite for peace and justice.

Shoji Niihara
Tokyo, Japan
Researcher on International Affairs

Shoji Niihara is a member of the Japan Peace Committee and one of the 25 Japanese peace activists who visited Olympia last summer.

Port of Tacoma
Eleven Days of Resistance

by Wally Cuddeford

The 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, a Stryker unit based out of Fort Lewis, was originally set to deploy in May of this year. However, George Bush's "Surge" strategy moved their deployment date up two months. Because of this, the unit had to skip crucial desert training at Fort Irwin in California, and train only here at Fort Lewis.

The Stryker vehicles must be sent to Iraq several weeks ahead of the soldiers in the unit. Convoys of Strykers ran from Fort Lewis to the Port of Tacoma every night from Friday, March 2, until Thursday, March 8. These vehicles were eventually loaded onto the USNS Soderman, bound for Iraq.

Tacoma SDS organizer Patrick Edelbacher is arrested for carrying a backpack, March 11. Photo by Carrie Lybecker

The use of the Port of Tacoma was a departure from precedent. The last Stryker unit to deploy used the Port of Olympia as its staging area. That shipment was met with 10 days of protests last May, and an announcement that further shipments through the port would be met with further protests. An Army spokesperson claims to not know why the change to Tacoma was made.

Rallies to protest the shipments were held every night at 9pm, along with many during the day. Locations for rallies included the Federal Courthouse in downtown Tacoma, the nearby ICE Detention Center, and on a nearby freeway overpass. Most of the early rallies gathered on a strip of sidewalk across the street from the fenced-off lot where the Strykers were being massed.

Most demonstrations at the port itself were met with heavy police presence. Just before any convoy approached to enter the fenced-off lot, the gate opened and a squad of around 30 riot police came out to block in protesters to prevent any street barricades. The police, arranged in two rows in the middle of the street, were equipped with batons, rifles, and other weapons. Witnesses say police pointed shotguns and Tasers at unarmed protesters. Nearly all officers wore body armor, and several wore face masks. Reports indicate the police occasionally even outnumbered the protesters, putting the police count as high as 250.

Chronology of events

After weeks of organizing and speculating, convoys of Strykers were sighted on Interstate 5 on the evening of Friday, March 2.

A preliminary report which aired on Free Radio Olympia falsely reported the convoys were headed for Olympia. The origin of this error is unknown. Dozens of people converged on the Port of Olympia that night, only to later discover the convoys went to the Port of Tacoma.

On the afternoon of Saturday, March 3, demonstrations began outside the Port of Tacoma with about 30-40 attendees. The police began issuing their orders that afternoon. Police informed protesters they were not to cross the fog line on their side of the road, or else they would risk arrest. The fog line was an arbitrary limit set by the police on the scene. Major media personnel were allowed to cross the fog line without arrest.

Police also gave many conflicting reports on whether it was legal for protesters to film on port grounds. Police told one group of protesters that filming was illegal, and that they had to give their names to them to pass on to Homeland Security. These protesters complied. Other police later told Drew Hendricks, as he filmed, that he had to turn off his camera. Hendricks asked several times for a reference to exactly what law said he couldn't film, and the police could not provide one. Eventually, a Lieutenant from the Tacoma P.D. arrived and agreed that Hendricks had the right to film from any place where he was allowed to stand.

On the night of Sunday, March 4, police escalated in response to the ongoing protest. Police assaulted and arrested PMR organizer Caitlin Esworthy. According to witnesses, she had not been violent, and had not crossed the fog line. Police claim she pushed through a police line and tried to grab an officer. Moments later, police assaulted, detained, and later arrested US Navy veteran Wally Cuddeford. Witnesses report that he too was not violent and had not crossed the fog line. Police claim he charged their line and struggled with police. While subdued and rendered immoble by police, Cuddeford was shocked with a Taser, a "less-than-lethal" electric weapon, three times in the back. An hour later, Jeff Berryhill was shot in the thigh with a rubber bullet at point blank range. Witnesses report he also was non-violent and had not crossed the fog line. Police claim Berryhill charged them in a threatening manner. All three were arrested for third degree assault. Friends of the arrested paid $1000 non-refundable bond each to get them released. The charges of assault were all dropped by the county, but can be filed later by the city.

Just after police had fired on Berryhill, PMR organizer Drew Hendricks placed the offending officer under citizen's arrest. In Washington State, anyone can place anyone else under citizen's arrest if they witness a felony on sight. One is guilty of resisting arrest if one refuses to comply with a citizen's arrest. The officer did not comply with Hendricks' citizen's arrest. Hendricks followed this up with a call to 911. Hendricks recalls that the 911 operator was very interested in the report that somebody was shot in the street, until discovering it was a police officer firing on a protester, at which point the operator hung up on Hendricks.

The rally on the night of Monday, March 5, drew around 60 people. Shortly before midnight, legal observer Karen Weill was summarily arrested for crossing the fog line. She had been trailing police officers who were illegally videotaping the demonstrators. Charges against her were originally not filed, and then a week later were filed without warning.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, March 6, University of Puget Sound student Joseph La Sac was confronted by police while filming near the protest site. La Sac was away from the protest at this time. The police told him he had to turn off his camera, and even tried to illegally turn it off themselves. At one point, the officer threatened to break the camera if La Sac did not turn it off. La Sac was handcuffed and placed in the back of a police car for not cooperating, but eventually he was released with no charges. The Tacoma Police Department has begun an internal investigation into the incident.

Later that evening, previous arrestee Cuddeford gave a speech during the public comments portion of the regular Tacoma City Council meeting. Cuddeford's speech condemned the Tacoma Police Department, and accused the Tacoma City Council of being complicit in the crimes of its police. After two and a half minutes, the Deputy Mayor ordered Cuddeford to cease his speech, and subsequently ordered his arrest. Police handcuffed Cuddeford and dragged him out of the council chambers. The reason given for the arrest is that Cuddeford went over in his allowed time. However, other people were allowed to speak for longer in the same meeting. The charges of Obstructing a Public Servant and Criminal Trespass were never filed. Cuddeford had referenced the scandal involving Tacoma Police Chief David Brame's suicide and murder of his wife, following a history of domestic abuse. Other citizens have also been silenced at City Council meetings for invoking Brame's name.

Cuddeford's speech condemned the Tacoma Police Department, and accused the Tacoma City Council of being complicit in the crimes of its police. After two and a half minutes, the Deputy Mayor ordered Cuddeford to cease his speech, and subsequently ordered his arrest.

Wednesday morning, an anonymous opponent to the protests impersonated PMR organizer Drew Hendricks and posted onto Seattle IndyMedia a notice of cancellation of all upcoming Tacoma events. Corrections to this notice were widely posted by PMR organizers. It is unknown who posted the original message. The tactics are similar to those used by the government to diffuse social movements in the past.

On Wednesday night, police threatened to arrest any demonstrator who would display any banner or sign. Demonstrators put away their signs and banners, and no arrests were made. Police on Wednesday also issued an order that no backpacks would be allowed near the police line or the Stryker lot. A Ninth Circuit ruling has already declared such a ban illegal.

On the evening of Friday, March 9, PMR organizer Tom McCarthy challenged the no-backpack rule, and was arrested. His backpack, full of food and medical supplies, was confiscated, even as at least two lawyers on the scene informed the police of the Ninth Circuit precedent. Other people, who were designated street medics, were also denied access to the protest Friday night with their backpacks full of medical supplies.

Friday night, soldiers began loading the Stryker vehicles onto the USNS Soderman, which had just arrived. Witnesses report a unit of around 70 more riot police were brought in to add to the police already present. A handful of demonstrators shook a fence in the area. Police shot rubber bullets and pepper spray at them. Police assaulted other protesters nearby with batons as they chanted "Shame on you!" Following this, the larger crowd of demonstrators, numbering around 200, began a march around the block. The march was escorted by two police cars. During the march, some demonstrators kicked over sawhorse signs which read "No parking" along the side of the road. Eventually, demonstrators crossed a yellow police line and sat down in a street, singing "Give Peace a Chance." The police gave an order to disperse, without saying where and without giving a time frame. Without provocation, police began firing tear gas cannisters and rubber bullets into the crowd of protesters. One photographer reports being hit in the head with a rubber bullet at very close range as he took pictures of the scene. Two other people were struck with wooden clubs, and at least five others were fired upon at point blank range. Police followed protesters as they ran to their cars, continuing to fire tear gas at them. Witnesses say the police used the tear gas cannisters as artillery to physically hit people with, firing them directly at demonstrators and their cars.

During the conflagration, an anonymous truck driver drove his oil truck through the protest and stopped it in between the charging police and the protesters. Police reportedly continued firing tear gas cannisters, even in the vicinity of the oil truck. It is still unclear who the truck driver was, and what happened to him or her.

As police continued to overtake demonstrators, many were intimidated into consenting to unwanted searches of their person. Street medics treated dozens of people for tear gas inhalation, and treated dozens more for wounds received from rubber bullets. One demonstrator was arrested for obstruction, and another for obstruction and third-degree assault. After a standoff between demonstrators and police, the police allowed owners of cars to return, five at a time, to retrieve their vehicles.

Late Saturday night, demonstration participant Margo Newman was placed under arrest while she was driving her car on Port of Tacoma grounds. The police reported that she was arrested for refusing to stop when ordered. However, Newman's lawyer,

At the Port of Tacoma before protesters were confined to stand behing the white fog line, March 3. I

Larry Hildes, reports that she was arrested upon refusing to consent to a search of her car. Tacoma police had attained no search warrant.

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 11, 60–100 demonstrators participated in a planned civil disobedience action at the intersection of 11th and Thorne. 11th and Thorne was the closest public location to the Soderman, and was right next to the route the Strykers used as they were loaded onto the ship. The action was coordinated with police. First, people brought backpacks into an area declared where they were prohibited. The contents of the backpacks varied, with some containing copies of the US Constitution, religious texts, and even a teddy bear. Eight people were arrested for violating the no-backpack order. Participants without backpacks then proceeded to the police barricade, where preparations were made to arrange an act of coordinated civil disobedience. Police originally wanted to bring in regular-uniformed police to do the arresting, but the police in riot gear were still the only ones on scene when the act began. Fifteen people climbed over the police barricade and were subsequently arrested.

Those who crossed the fence carried a citizen's injunction, ordering that the Stryker shipments through the Port of Tacoma stop. Olympia City Council member TJ Johnson was among those arrested. Witnesses also recall hearing the Tacoma police officer coordinating the policing of the action tell demonstrators he's ready for them to cross the fence, an invitation which may invalidate the arrests.

> Police followed protesters as they ran to their cars, continuing to fire tear gas at them. Witnesses say the police used the tear gas cannisters as artillery to physically hit people with, firing them directly at demonstrators and their cars.

Following the arrests, other participants gave speeches regarding civic duty to disobey unlawful orders, and questioning the police's actions in guarding the shipments. Charges against twelve of the twenty-three arrested demonstrators were dropped. The remaining eleven still face charges.

The night of Monday, March 12, brought between 75 and 100 people to the protest. The crowd marched from the intersection of Lincoln and Milwaukee up to the police barricade at 11th and Thorne. A rally was held there for a couple of hours, with Iraq veterans speaking. Two rows of police, with full armaments and riot gear, stood behind the barricades during the entire rally. Three snipers armed with rifles stood on a nearby roof. Detective Graham referred to the rally as "peaceful."

When that rally dispersed, the crowd eventually returned to Lincoln and Milwaukee. At this location, another rally was held. Riot police, many of whom were already wearing gas masks, held a line on the north side of Milwaukee Street, operating bright fog lights in the direction of the demonstrators. Several demonstrators stood across from the police, some talking to them.

After around 20 minutes, without provocation, police began firing tear gas into the crowd. Police ran after the crowd, continuing to fire tear gas and continuing to push demonstrators farther and farther down Milwaukee Street. Five people were overtaken by police. They were arrested on suspicion of criminal obstruction. After an hour, demonstrators were pushed to the farthest edge of the Port of Tacoma. Demonstrators had to negotiate for the right to return to and retrieve their cars. Police eventually allowed demonstrators to return in groups of two, separated by 20 feet, and not carrying any protest signs. The charges against the five arrestees were dropped.

The USNS Soderman left for Iraq on the morning of Tuesday, March 13. PMR organizers agreed to carry on with demonstrations already planned through Thursday afternoon. Another vigil was held Wednesday evening at the port. The final demonstration, held on Thursday afternoon, consisted of a funeral march down 11th Avenue. A coffin was carried, and names of people who have died in the war were read.

Additional Items of Interest

On KING5 News, Tacoma Police Detective Brad Graham told viewers that demonstrators threw barricades at police. A few days later, Graham was interviewed by two independent journalists. Graham admitted on tape that, despite reporting as to what allegedly happened on Friday night, he was not on the scene and had not yet read any officers' reports about the incident. Graham's response to the video that shows no barricades were thrown at police prior to the tear gas was as follows: "That's the beauty of being a videographer. You get to show what you want to show, and not what you don't."

Early reports of the first Cuddeford arrest did not indicate the tasing, in part because witnesses in the demonstration did not know it had happened. Early police reports indicated a cut knee was the major injury Cuddeford suffered. The police did not admit to the tasing until after it was reported by activists upon Cuddeford's release.

Police frequently filmed peaceful demonstrators. In other cities, it has been found to be illegal for an on-duty police officer to film anyone unless the recorded person is committing a crime, or there is reasonable cause to believe that person will very soon commit one. On other occasions, police ordered demonstrators to remove banners from public venues. Police pointed potentially lethal weapons at lawful demonstrators at point blank range, even after being asked to point them at the ground. Police also frequently refused to identify themselves, sometimes on camera. Street medic and PMR organizer Rachel Graham reported that many police officers appeared "inexperienced and poorly trained."

Despite the focus on instances of police brutality, the protests were not all tense. On a couple of occasions, demonstrators did the Hokey Pokey, cheating their way across the fog line. Also, not all rallies were met with police brutality. In most cases, there is a considerable link between police brutality and lack of daylight. There are also observations that police brutality diminished in the presence of major media representatives.

Despite the repeated brutality, participants report that many demonstrators who suffered the attacks continued to attend the rallies on subsequent nights.

The riot police force during the Tacoma protests consisted of Washington State Patrol, Pierce County Sheriff's officers, King County Sheriff's officers, Seattle Police, and other King County police agencies. Also, extra off-duty Tacoma police were hired to help protect the shipments. The burden for paying for this increased security currently lies on the communities whose ports are used to ship the equipment. Reports say the Tacoma Police Department will seek reimbursement from the federal government, the military, or the Port of Tacoma for the added security provided during the protests. The Port of Tacoma reports that military shipments accounted for 2% of its $92 million revenue in 2006.

Some soldiers gave friendly waves to demonstrators. One soldier wrote "Well, most of my leadership wasn't there but you guys were, so I'll buy you a beer." Alternately, the parent of one member of 4th Brigade 2nd Infantry Division called the demonstrators "spoiled, self centered, obnoxious brats."

In the past, a traffic advisory had been issued to local media prior to Stryker convoys. No such advisory was sent out this time. The convoy also ran at night, instead of during the day.

On occasion, police appeared to respond immediately to group discussions being had by protesters on the scene, indicating possible surveillance.

A total of 37 people were arrested during the nearly two-week long protests at the Port of Tacoma. The charges were dropped against over half of the defendants. All 8 people arrested for violating the no-backpack zone, as well as 3 of the 15 barricade-hoppers, are being charged with "failure to obey a flagman," a misdemeanor.

Sources

Every item in this article is sourced online. Visit www.olywip.org and view the web version for the full list of sources.

If you were the victim of police mishandling, witnessed such mishandling, or know any other pertinent details regarding the Port of Tacoma protests, please e-mail me at ersatzcats@yahoo.com

Worse Than The War

by David Krieger

Worse than the war, the endless, senseless war
Worse than the lies leading to the war

Worse than the countless deaths and injuries
Worse than hiding the coffins
and not attending funerals

Worse than the flouting of international law
Worse than the torture at Abu Ghraib prison

Worse than the corruption of young soldiers
Worse than undermining our
collective sense of decency

Worse than the arrogance,
smugness, and swagger
Worse than our loss of credibility in the world
Worse than the loss of our liberties

Worse than learning nothing from the past
Worse than destroying the future
Worse than the incredible stupidity of it all

Worse than all of these,
As if they were not enough for one war
or country or lifetime,
Is the silence, the resounding silence,
of good Americans.

Molly Gibbs read "Worse than the war" by David Krieger just prior to crossing a police barrier with a copy of the Citizens Injunction (see page 5), March 11.
Photo by Carrie Lybecker

Photo by Robert Whitlock

Tacoma municipal court proceedings better than an operetta

Tacoma 23 and attorneys defend the right to dissent

by Mark Jensen

TACOMA, WASHINGTON—I arrived late at the arraignment of the "Tacoma 23" on Thursday afternoon, Mar. 15, but I was in luck. There was one seat left in the completely packed courtroom. I squeezed in next to Matt Batcheldor, a reporter from the Olympian, the only mainstream media journalist there.

Legal Assistant Karen Weill and Attorney Larry Hildes in a Thurston County pretrial hearing for the Olympia 22, March 20.
Photo by Sandy Mayes

I was one of about fifty who came to see the City of Tacoma dispose of charges against 23 protesters arrested on Sunday afternoon, Mar. 11, 2007. They were to be charged Thursday for acts of civil disobedience protesting the use of the publicly-owned Port of Tacoma for the purpose of shipping the vehicles of the US Army's 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, to Iraq. The defendants, part of the Port Militarization Resistance movement (PMR), hold that the Iraq war and occupation are illegal, and therefore public facilities should not be used to support them.

The Stryker vehicles and the Port of Tacoma are only two strands in Western Washington's deep entanglement in the Iraq war. PMR is raising consciousness about the complicity of our communities in actions we know are wrong, but that most are doing nothing about.

Looking around, I noticed that on my left was Dennis Dutton, a Tibetan Buddhist monk from Port Townsend. While fifteen people had been arrested on Sunday for clambering over a police barricade with a "Citizen's Injunction to Halt Shipment of Military Equipment to Iraq," Dutton had been one of eight to be arrested a few minutes earlier for violating an arbitrary police ban on backpacks, bags, and purses. Dutton told me that with him there in the courtroom was the same bag that he had been arrested for carrying on Sunday. In fact, I was sitting right next to it, and my coat was touching it. It was red and orange, made of hand-woven cloth. In it was, among other things, a copy of the *Dhammapada*, where one can read: "For hate is not conquered by hate: hate is conquered by love. This is a law eternal."

I had arrived in the courtroom just in time. Commissioner Dennis Ball was beginning proceedings. He named fourteen people against whom the City of Tacoma had elected to bring no charges: Amanda Askea, Samuel Edwards, Molly Gibbs, Patricia Imani, Linda Jansen, TJ Johnson (the Olympia city councilman who is the highest-profile member of the Tacoma 23), Rosie Math, Sandy Mayes, Andrea Robbins, Dylan Snyder, Christopher Stegman, and Brooke Stepp.

The judge told these defendants there was no need for them to enter a plea. Attorney Lawrence Hildes of Bellingham spoke up for them anyway. He said he believed that all the arrests had been unfounded, that they had been abused by police, and that the charges against them should be expunged from the record. Attorney Legrand Jones of Olympia also spoke, complaining about the chilling effect of police actions on the freedom of speech of those who had been arrested. Then those who were not being charged filed to the front of the court to take care of paperwork.

> Attorney Legrand Jones of Olympia also spoke, complaining about the chilling effect of police actions on the freedom of speech of those who had been arrested.

Ball said that no charges would be brought, either, against Margo Newman, arrested Saturday night for refusing to allow police to search her vehicle without a search warrant near where the Stryker vehicles were being loaded. Newman had, Hildes said, "effectively been arrested for saying you need a search warrant." He said his client had been thrown around and brutalized by police both at the scene and later, in jail.

At about a quarter to three, the judge began to arraign the remaining defendants. His actions mystified and baffled all present. What the City of Tacoma did was this: All eight defendants who had refused to obey the ban on bags, purses, and backpacks were charged with "failure to obey a flagman," a misdemeanor. Three of the fifteen protestors who climbed over a police barrier with a copy of the Citizen's Injunction were also charged with the same offense.

Why did these three merit prosecution and the twelve others did not? No one knows. On Friday, Tacoma assistant city attorney Jean Hayes said that they were not charged because of "insufficient information," but court officials would not comment. Said TJ Johnson: "If they have insufficient information to charge the others, what is the sufficient information they have for those they are charging? I find the whole thing continues to be bizarre" (Matt Batcheldor, "Charges Still Possible in Johnson's Arrest," *Olympian*, Mar. 17, 2007).

As the session wore on, proceedings in windowless, gray-walled Tacoma Municipal Court began to remind me of an operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan. The main characters were three: big, bearded Lawrence (Larry) Hildes, the attorney representing most of those charged, who would be a baritone were I writing the score, but who in fact was a tenor; the mild-mannered Commissioner Ball, whom I might cast as a countertenor, though he was another tenor, too; and a grumpy black-haired prosecutor for the City of Tacoma, who sat hunched morosely over a table piled high with documents. He never once looked back at the filled-to-capacity courtroom. He seemed indifferent to the presence of the public, whose authority he represented. I never glimpsed his face. He, too was a tenor. But he didn't seem to have his heart in his role. His voice lacked projection. No one ever did learn his name; he later refused to tell the press who he was, according to Matt Batcheldor of the *Olympian*.

> *"It is absurd to release her on condition of lawful behavior, because she was arrested for lawful behavior. She does not know what constitutes lawful behavior in the eyes of this court."*
> Larry Hildes, Attorney

The defendants were the most important people there, but in the arraignment they played minor roles. One by one they were summoned to stand before the court. Commissioner Ball would ask the the prosecutor to read the charges. Attorney Hildes would inveigh against them. Then the judge, oblivious, would intone: "I'll find probable cause, and order PR [personal recognizance] release on condition of law-abiding behavior."

Larry Hildes, the attorney, who in 2003 argued and won the case of *Graves v. City of Coeur d'Alene*, 339 F.3d. 828 (9th Cir. 2003), on precisely the question of the right to have backpacks at protests, had the best lines. Here are some of his remarks:

Defending Leah Coakley of Tacoma: "It is reasonable to bring medical supplies to a protest when police are firing rubber bullets, concussion grenades, and tear gas. It is absurd to release her on condition of lawful behavior, because she was arrested for lawful behavior. She does not know what constitutes lawful behavior in the eyes of this court."

> "Just as we feel that soldiers should disobey unlawful orders, so I refuse to obey illegal orders."
> Phan Nguyen

Defending Dennis Dutton of Port Townsend: "Mr. Dutton is required to have his bag for religious reasons. There is no crime that has been committed. If the police are allowed to behave in this way, my client will be required to choose between his First Amendment rights and his Fourth Amendment rights. We ask dismissal, and we ask that police be admonished to desist from enforcing any such order."

Defending Patrick Edelbacher of Tacoma: "Medical supplies are reasonable and necessary. There is no law stating: 'Thou shalt not have a backpack.' There is no obligation to obey an unlawful order. Case law specifically prohibits this sort of behavior on the part of police."

Defending Liz Rivera Goldstein of Port Townsend, arrested for carrying a backpack that contained a white teddy bear: "The items my client carried were not dangerous or harmful. Under *Graves v. City of Coeur d'Alene*, she has the right to carry them. I speak as the attorney who argued and won this case. The Ninth Circuit has said you can't do that. There is an immense and intentional chilling in this case because the police did not like this demonstration. It is not the job of the police to dislike a demonstration. Is she breaking the law now?" Ms. Goldstein extended her arms dramatically, holding up the white teddy bear in her left hand—he was holding his arms out, too, as if in alarm—and the copy of *Graves v. City of Coeur d'Alene* in her right. "At any time she could be arrested!" (Laughter in the courtroom.)

Defending Gloria Norton of Seattle, better known as Sasha Crow: "Like all the persons charged, this person was doing nothing illegal. There was no fencing. [The prosecutor had referred to "fencing."] It was a police barricade. The goal was to push the demonstration as far away as possible because they did not like the demonstration. We ask that the police be admonished to obey the law." (About this time, I noticed that Commissioner Ball was not even listening to Attorney Hildes. Instead, he shuffled through papers, reading here and there, exhibiting an attitude of indifference to the legal and constitutional points being raised.)

Defending Charles Bevis of St. Paul, Minnesota: "We note that the prosecutor is not even sure what object Mr. Bevis was carrying. There is no reasonable basis here. *Graves* [*v. City of Coeur d'Alene*] said this is an illegal arrest. There is no probable cause. This violates my client's Fourteenth Amendment right to due process. It is inherently chilling. I ask that this case be dismissed."

Defending Matthew Reiss of Olympia: "You cannot arrest someone for possessing the Constitution or referring to the Constitution. If the court allows this arrest, it is saying to the police: 'Do whatever you like.' It is precisely what the Framers were trying to prevent. These cases in general are a mockery of the defendants, and a mockery of the citizens of Tacoma who are obliged to pay for this prosecution."

Defending Jody Tiller of Olympia, who was carrying two books in her bag: "Same objection. My client was arrested for possessing books. The last regime to outlaw books fell in 1945. I ask the court not to repeat those mistakes. The demonstration at the Port of Tacoma was moved further and further back. It casts a veil of shame on the City of Tacoma to bring this case. If you can't carry books at a demonstration, what can you do? The police order was arbitrary and capricious."

Hildes also made remarks in defense of Somerset Fetter. Fetter, Wes Hamilton, and Sasha Crow were the three who crossed the

▸ **Tacoma 23** continued on next page

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KUOW 99.4FM – Ross Reynolds Interview with TJ Johnson

I'm Ross Reynolds in for Monday, March 12, 2007. It's *The Conversation.*

We begin at the Port of Tacoma, where dozens of anti-war activists have been trying to block the shipment of military vehicles to Iraq. It got a little wild late Friday night.

(Sounds of protesters singing "Give Peace a Chance," screams, gas and projectiles being fired.)

That's a recording off *YouTube* of police firing rubber bullets and tear gas on anti-war protesters at the Port of Tacoma early Saturday morning. Three people were arrested. Another twenty-three people were arrested at the Port of Tacoma yesterday, but it was more peaceful, with the civil disobedience coordinated with police. The police have banned backpacks from the demonstration. Some protesters wore backpacks with copies of the US Constitution inside. Others crossed over a police barricade. They were arrested, and charged with misdemeanors. TJ Johnson was one of those arrested yesterday at the Port of Tacoma anti-war protest. He is a member of the Olympia City Council. TJ Johnson got out of jail at 3 AM this morning. I spoke to him early today and asked him what they were trying to accomplish.

TJ JOHNSON: We are trying to end our community's participation in what we consider an illegal and immoral war. Many of us believe that we've exhausted every legal means available to us to petition our elected representatives to cease the hostilities, and the only thing left to us is to move forward with nonviolent civil disobedience.

REYNOLDS: So you're trying to block the shipment of Stryker vehicles to Iraq?

JOHNSON: Yes, we are, because we want to support the troops.

REYNOLDS: Won't the soldiers be in danger, though, if they don't have the supplies they need?

JOHNSON: The soldiers are here at Fort Lewis. They're not going to be shipped out without their supplies. Again, we're trying to keep them here at home, because that's the best way to support the troops.

REYNOLDS: It looked a little wild, at least from what the TV cameras showed on Friday night with rubber bullets being shot at demonstrators. What was it like yesterday?

JOHNSON: Yesterday was a very calm, peaceful event. It was deliberately so. It was done in daylight hours with full transparency, with announcing our intentions completely in advance to the police at the scene, and negotiating the arrest to ensure that neither the police nor the protesters were hurt in the process of arrest.

> I think that a diversity of tactics just reinforces the message that it is a large cross-section of this state, this community and this country that are now opposed to this occupation in Iraq.

REYNOLDS: Why did things get out of hand on Friday?

JOHNSON: Well, I was there Friday night, but left prior to the time things got out of hand, but I think people need to look at the videos that have been posted on YouTube about that event. My analysis of that, and having talked to people on the scene, is that they were sitting down singing peacefully, in the street, when the riot police from various departments launched tear gas canisters and began rapid-spraying rubber bullets into the crowd. The video shows that there was clearly no provocation from the demonstrators before the police overreacted.

REYNOLDS: Do you think the demonstrations are past those kinds of confrontations? Do you have an agreement now with police on how you'll proceed into the future, so you don't get tear gassed and have rubber bullets shot at you?

JOHNSON: Well, I don't know that, because this movement is very broad and growing daily, so there are some people, such as those who were arrested yesterday including myself, who want to approach this in a peaceful, nonviolent way. I believe there are those that feel that direct confrontation is more in their interest. I think, frankly, that it's important to remember that the police are not our enemies, the troops are not our enemies. The enemy is the war.

REYNOLDS: How is that going to work, though, TJ? Remember up here in Seattle when most of the people during the WTO were demonstrating peacefully and there was a small group that was seeking confrontation with the police, and that sort of characterized the entire action. How will you, who would rather keep it low-key and peaceful, be able to do that when you've got other segments who would like to have more confrontation?

JOHNSON: Well, frankly, I don't know whether we can, Ross. As I said, this is a diverse movement, and some people have chosen more confrontational tactics, and I don't believe that there's really any way to stop them. And frankly, I think that a diversity of tactics just reinforces the message that it is a large cross-section of this state, this community and this country that are now opposed to this occupation in Iraq. So, people will do what they're going to do, and I think people opposing these shipments will act in the way that their conscience calls them, whatever that may be.

REYNOLDS: How long will the protests go on for, TJ?

JOHNSON: The protests will continue until the ship leaves Commencement Bay which we expect could be as soon as tomorrow. But once the ship is gone, the campaign is not over. It is our intention to shut down all military shipments to the war in Iraq through the Port of Olympia and now through the Port of Tacoma, but our campaign continues, even after this ship sails.

REYNOLDS: That's Olympia City Council member TJ Johnson. I spoke with him this morning. He is one of twenty-three people arrested yesterday at the Port of Tacoma anti-war protest which is ongoing. This is *The Conversation.*

▸ Tacoma 23 continued from previous page

police barricade with the Citizen's Injunction and were charged.

There were two defendants who spoke on their own behalf, even though they were cautioned that it could be dangerous to do so. Wes Hamilton of Olympia said: "I wanted to say that I have no contempt of this court. I simply believe that given unconscionable behavior by the government, citizens should have a free speech right to protest it."

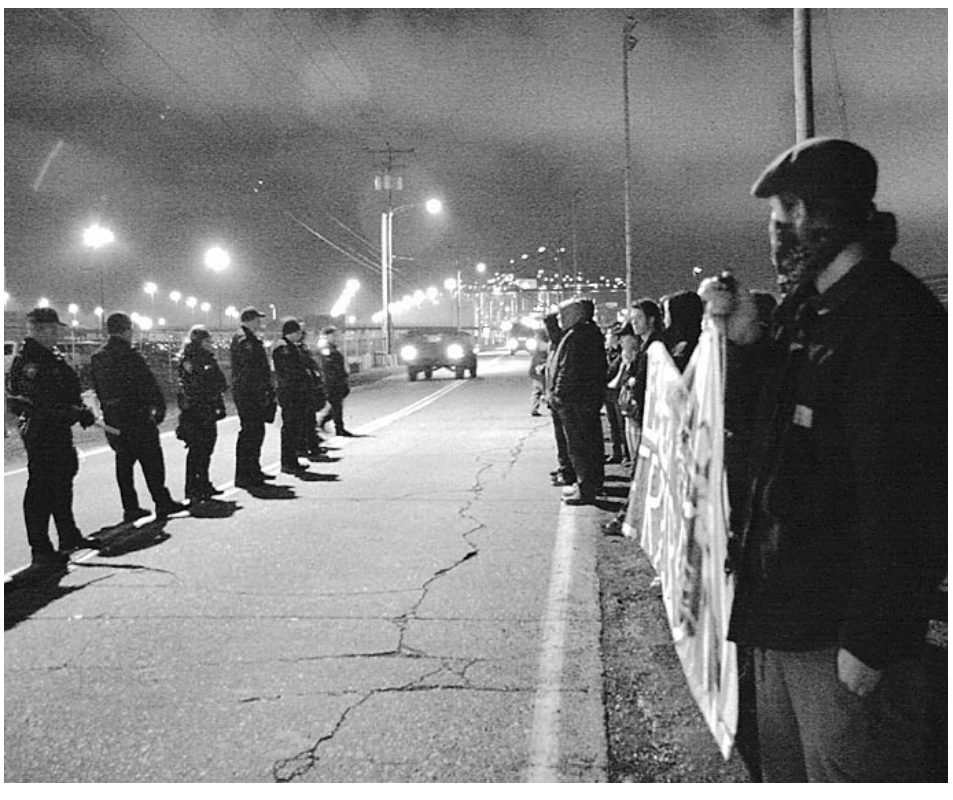
Phan Nguyen of Olympia also spoke on his own behalf. On Sunday, Nguyen had been the first to cross the police's backpack line. He said then: "We're here to assert our right to protest. All I have in my pack is the United States Constitution." Alluding to the case of Lt. Ehren Watada, the commissioned Army officer who refuses to deploy to Iraq on the grounds that the war is illegal, he had added: "Just as we feel that soldiers should disobey unlawful orders, so I refuse to obey illegal orders."

On Thursday, in court, Phan Nguyen said: "I believe the order given to me by the police was arbitrary and illegal, just as it would be arbitrary and illegal to prohibit someone from exercising their free speech while wearing a left shoe, for example. I ask the court not to find probable cause, because this would create a ridiculous precedent."

Commissioner Ball was unmoved. He set April 24 as a pretrial date for the group.

After the arraignment, all joined on the courthouse steps, where Jim Robbins of United for Peace of Pierce County took their picture.

Mark Jensen is a member of United for Peace of Pierce County (WA), and of the faculty of Pacific Lutheran University.



Behind the fog line: Demonstrators face off with police at the Port of Tacoma, March 3. Photo by Robert Whitlock

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The people Of Italy say no to US imperialism

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

American tourists walking through Italian cities are always awestruck by the ancient buildings—preserved relics from medieval times—that are scattered throughout Italy's budding modern development. The contrast between ancient and modern, between industrial and medieval is something exotic and alien to many Americans. The United States is so young compared to its European counterparts, and it's hard for any American to understand the world outside of that juvenile scope. For Americans, the rest of the world is new, fresh, uncharted lands, waiting to be explored and possibly conquered. The psychology of the American does not leave much room for contradictions; something is either ancient or modern, progressive or regressive, east or west, with us or against us.

What is also alien to many American tourists is the mixture of reactions that they get when they travel to Italy. On the one hand Italians—especially those who depend on the tourist industry—are extremely hospitable to Americans. They make every effort to speak in English, to show interest and respect, and take responsibility for all the disappointments tourists feel. It is as if they are constantly living in the gratitude of America's liberation of Italy from nazi occupation. On the other hand, they are Italians who are resentful of the United States—not so much of its people, but its government. Many of the buildings in Italy are covered with the graffiti of political frustrations and angst: giant circled A's representing the sign of anarchy, crudely drawn hammers and sickles, phrases like "go home Yankee" written in English, or "conigli USA" (beach USA) written in Italian. There is a part of Italy that is extremely bitter about American influence in their country, how it has watched over and molded the republic, about the transforming of their culture and customs to conform to an American way of life, and about the arrogance of the US government.

Recently, these feelings have reached a boiling point, and their ramifications reach far outside of Italy and into eastern Asia. Diplomatic ties between the United States and Italy have strained as the approval of the Bush administration has plummeted in Italy—along with any government official who strongly associates with it.

First there was former prime minister Silvo Berlusconi's strong support for the invasion of Iraq. Next to Tony Blair, Berlusconi was the biggest supporter of Bush in Europe, and was willing to commit over 3,000 Italian troops to the US-led invasion. The outcry from Italians was immense. In the months of October and November of 2003, the year of the invasion, over 2 million people in Italy took to the streets, including an international march in Rome of 500,000 people. Despite these protests, Berlusconi followed through with his commitment to the invasion, and 30 Italian soldiers died on the battlefield of Iraq. (Berlusconi's loss to Romano Prodi in the 2006 election is largely attributed to his support of the US invasion and occupation of Iraq.)

Two hundred thousand people demonstrated in the small northern Italian city of Vicenza on Saturday to speak out against the planned expansion, Feb 2007.

Then there was the kidnapping of radical Egyptian cleric Osama Moustafa Hassan Nas'r , also known as Abu Omar, on the streets of Milan by American CIA operatives working in Italy. Abu Omar was suspected of terrorist activities in both Bosnia and Afghanistan. The CIA had been tracking him, but instead of working with Italian officials to bring Abu Omar to justice, the CIA decided to swipe him off the street and send him to Egypt. There, he was tortured for information. When Italian officials tried to investigate the matter, the CIA deliberately lied to them and tried to cover-up the whole affair. Italian prosecutors are still seeking arrest warrants for 13 CIA officials for their involvement in the kidnapping and for obstruction of justice.

Then there was the murder of high level Italian secret service agent Nicola Calipari by American troops in Iraq. Calipari went to Iraq to help negotiate the release of Giuliana Sgrene—a journalist for the leftist paper Il Manifesto. Insurgents kidnapped Sgrene. They demanded that Italian troops immediately leave the country. If not she would be killed.

> It is common knowledge that an expanded base in Italy is sought to aid US efforts in fighting oil wars in the desert.

Calipari went to Iraq and successfully negotiated Sgrene's release. While driving to a coalition checkpoint, American troops opened fire on the car carrying Sgrene and Calipari. Calipari threw his body over Sgrene to protect her from the gunfire, and was killed in the process. The United States released a report that cleared the soldiers of any wrongdoing in the incident. Italians from all political stripes were outraged, and referred to the report as a "slap in the face."

Now, the main controversy in US–Italian relations revolves around the town of Vicenza in northern Italy. In 2003, secret deals between the US, the former Berlusconi government, and the city's local municipality were made to expand the 173rd Airborne Brigade's military base. When the news became public, the people of Vicenza were outraged. A coalition of concerned citizens and activists, led mostly by housewives and mothers, rapidly formed to challenge the move. People marched through the city with banners that read "The Future is in Our Hands," and yelled slogans such as "Volgliamo la terra, senza basi di guerra" (We want land, without bases for war).

This is not a "not in my backyard" campaign. It is common knowledge that an expanded base in Italy is sought to aid US efforts in fighting oil wars in the desert. Some critics of the base expansion find it hypocritical that Italy pulled the last of its troops out of Iraq in November of 2006, but plans on helping the US continue its occupation and assaults on the country from a proxy position on the other side of the Mediterranean.

In many ways, the future of Vicenza could determine the future of US–Italian relations, and even US influence in the east. So far, the government has been unresponsive to the citizens of Vicenza and their advocates. Prime Minister Romano Prodi had a chance to cancel the deal, but instead decided to go through with the plans. The local government refused to bring the issue to referendum for the people to decide. But the cries of Vicenza's people are hard to ignore. In February of this year, organizers planned a march and demonstration through the city that attracted 200,000 people—an amazing feat, considering the population of the entire city is only around 150,000.

Like the tourist industry in Italy, which both welcomes and repels the American influence, the people of Vicenza express this same contradiction. While condemning the actions of the American government and its imperial ambitions, they are jubilant of the support they have received from Americans in their campaign. The group Americans for Peace and Justice, based out of Rome, received the largest applause from any other contingent in the march. At the rally, American presenters, speaking in English, received the most boisterous applause and shouts.

Italians' sentiment toward America is actually very similar to the sentiment that many Americans have toward America: they love their country, but hate their government. And as the wars continue, as the empire seeks to expand itself, people on both sides of the Atlantic want to see it changed.

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a street outreach worker and member of The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

Brendan Williams Sponsors Domestic Partnership Bill

This short piece was to accompany Janet Blanding's article last month, "Domestic Partnership: A First Step Toward Marriage Equality" but did not get printed. Our sincere apologies to Janet and Brandon for the oversight.

Representative Brendan Williams of the 22nd District is a co-sponsor of House Bill 1351 which would protect individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits. He has sent the following to constituents who email him in support of the bill:

I am a co-sponsor of this bill. We just had a house Judiciary hearing on it January 31. Far-right lobbyist Bob Higley, a friend of Kevin Stormans (who owns Bayview and Ralph's Thriftway), railed against the 'homosexual agenda' in the most hateful language of the hearing. Higley is involved with Stormans in the far-right Daniel's House of Prayer in the South Capitol neighborhood. Higley wrote a letter to the editor of the Olympian recently defending his friend, and Ralph's, for banning emergency contraception. All of these things are worth tying together when you choose where to shop for groceries. Discrimination is never acceptable because it's "local" or discriminates against those other than yourself.

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A BENEFIT FOR THE OLYMPIA 22 AND THE PORT RESISTANCE DEFENSE FUND

Oly 22 case ends in mistrial; reveals surveillance of activists

Trial for the remaining 17 defendants of the "Olympia 22" began on Monday, March 26. By Thursday, March 29, a mistrial was declared and information about surveillance on activists surfaced.

The 17 defendants had been arrested for trespass on May 30, 2006, while protesting the shipment of Army Stryker vehicles to Iraq from the Port of Olympia.

Monday, March 26

Following a day-long jury selection process, lead prosecutor Debra Eurich gave her opening statement. Within minutes she breached one of the agreements made in pretrial, almost causing a mistrial. Further motions for mistrial would be filed by the defense all week, as the prosecution repeatedly tried to push the boundaries of what it was allowed to say.

Tuesday, March 27

On Tuesday, the prosecution called its first witness, Thurston County Detective Rod Gray. Gray showed video footage of the May 30 demonstration. The prosecution attempted to use the video to show how defendants had trespassed by crossing an invisible line. Eurich had hoped to use video footage taken *after* the arrests to show that a line was *eventually* demarcated and dispersal orders were eventually made. Following objections by the defense, the judge ruled that footage taken after the arrests would be irrelevant to the case and would only be prejudicial to the jury. Consequently the prosecution spent much time fast-forwarding and rewinding through the video in order to locate a segment in the video that was ultimately non-existent.

Wednesday, March 28

On Wednesday, the prosecution presented its second witness, Mike Crawford, facility security officer at the Port of Olympia. Crawford attempted to win over the jury by twice evoking the "9/11 attacks on our country," to no avail. He also incorrectly recalled seeing one of the defendants on May 30. Although he repeatedly described a "fence line" that the defendants had crossed, under cross-examination he admitted that the "fence line" was never mentioned by any party on May 30, nor had there been any communication made about a "fence line."

Following Crawford's testimony, the prosecution called up Capt. Brad Watkins of the Thurston County Sheriffs Office. The prosecution attempted to introduce booking photos of the defendants, but the defense objected that doing so would be prejudicial, as booking photos often imply guilt to the jury. Despite the defense's protests, Eurich boldly flashed a copy of one of the booking photos to the jury, causing the defense to make more motions for a mistrial.

The judge placed a near-impossible bar for a mistrial and was determined to resume the court session. However, by 3:30 pm Eurich suffered an emotional breakdown and could not continue. The judge ended the day early. By then the judge was expecting the trial to go for two weeks, possibly three.

Thursday, March 29

On Thursday, lead prosecutor Eurich, still recovering from the previous day's breakdown, deferred control to Senior Deputy Prosecutor Steve Straume. Capt. Watkins returned to the witness stand, where he gave information inconsistent with Mike Crawford's. Watkins failed to explain why he had absolutely no memory of a conversation he had with Prosecutor Eurich concerning video footage shot on May 30 by the Olympia Police Department—video that was subsequently destroyed before the defense learned about it.

By then it was clear that the prosecution was calling unreliable witnesses. Along with the fact that Eurich, who had been leading the case since almost the beginning, was no longer able to take the lead, it looked like the state's case was falling apart. But the prosecution was about to reveal its secret weapon.

During cross-examination of the prosecution's third witness, two men entered and handed the prosecution a document. That document would soon provide the impetus for a mistrial. The two men who entered were Detective Mike Hirte and his superior, Chief Jim Chamberlain, both of the Thurston County Sheriffs Office. Soon after receiving the document, the prosecution asked for a recess. During the recess, Straume presented the document to the defense.

The document turned out to be a confidential Excel spreadsheet drawn up by the defense. On March 31, prior to the start of the trial, legal assistant Karen Weill had compiled the information sheets of all the potential jurors and consolidated them into a single Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet was then emailed to the defense attorneys, as well as to a *riseup.net* email list that had been created for the defendants. Immediately after emailing the spreadsheet, however, Weill realized that the email list did not necessarily contain only defendants in this case. Upon consulting with Weill, defendant Andrew Yankey sent an email to the same email list a few minutes later, stating that the spreadsheet contained confidential information, and was to be read only by the defense team and the defendants and should by no means be disseminated.

The email list included 8 former defendants and May 2006 arrestees who were not authorized to receive the document. However they were people known to the Oly 22 who could safely be trusted not to read or disseminate the document, as requested. But unknown to the defendants and legal team at the time, there was a ninth email address that had been secretly lurking on the email list for over a month. The owner of that ninth email address, *jaamto04@gmail.com*, possibly tipped off by Yankey's warning, then contacted the Thurston County Prosecutors Office with the document.

Detective Mike HIrte (center) with his superior, Chief Jim Chamberlain (right) in Thurston County District Court on March 29.

Mistrial

By Wednesday, March 28, at the request of Straume, Chamberlain assigned Hirte to investigate the document. By Thursday afternoon, Straume had the information he was looking for and made his motion for a mistrial. Predictably, Straume downplayed his personal interest in a mistrial and exaggerated his concern for the jurors, whom he patronizingly referred to as "people who are only being good citizens," whose sensitive information were put "out there," on the Internet.

Straume was incorrect. The information was not available anywhere on the Internet, not even on *riseup.net*, because the option to archive messages had been deactivated. Thus the only unexpected recipients of the original spreadsheet would have been those who were already subscribed to the defense team's email list on March 31. In fact, the only security risk to the jurors was the mysterious *jaamto04@gmail.com*, who was collaborating with the Thurston County Sheriffs Office and the Prosecutors Office.

Regardless, Judge Dubuisson felt a duty to inform the jurors of the security breach, and by doing so, would taint the jury to the extent that she would have to call a mistrial. And it was done.

Another mysterious email address

The Oly 22 defendants eventually learned of a configuration error with their email list. Although the message archives were properly deactivated, membership had been open. But since the list was never advertised, and it was clearly labeled as an exclusive list for defendants, nobody new signed on to the list, except for *jaamto04@gmail.com*. On Wednesday, March 28, the day before the mistrial, a second mysterious email subscribed to the list, *edmund.bob@gmail.com*.

The defendants learned of the existence of *edmund.bob@gmail.com* during Thursday's court proceedings and accused Det. Hirte of using that email address. Det. Hirte faced the judge and responded with this non-answer: "My name is not 'edmund-dot-bob' at all."

Detective Hirte

Mike Hirte has been employed with the Thurston County Sheriffs Office at least since 1998. During last year's Port of Olympia protests, Hirte was spotted filming activists. When approached at the time, he had responded that he was with "Homeland Security." He currently works in forensic investigation, and in particular, computer forensics. Following the Oly 22 mistrial, he refused to answer any questions from the defendants, not even when he was asked who he worked for. Hirte had also been assigned to research some YouTube videos of last year's Port protests.

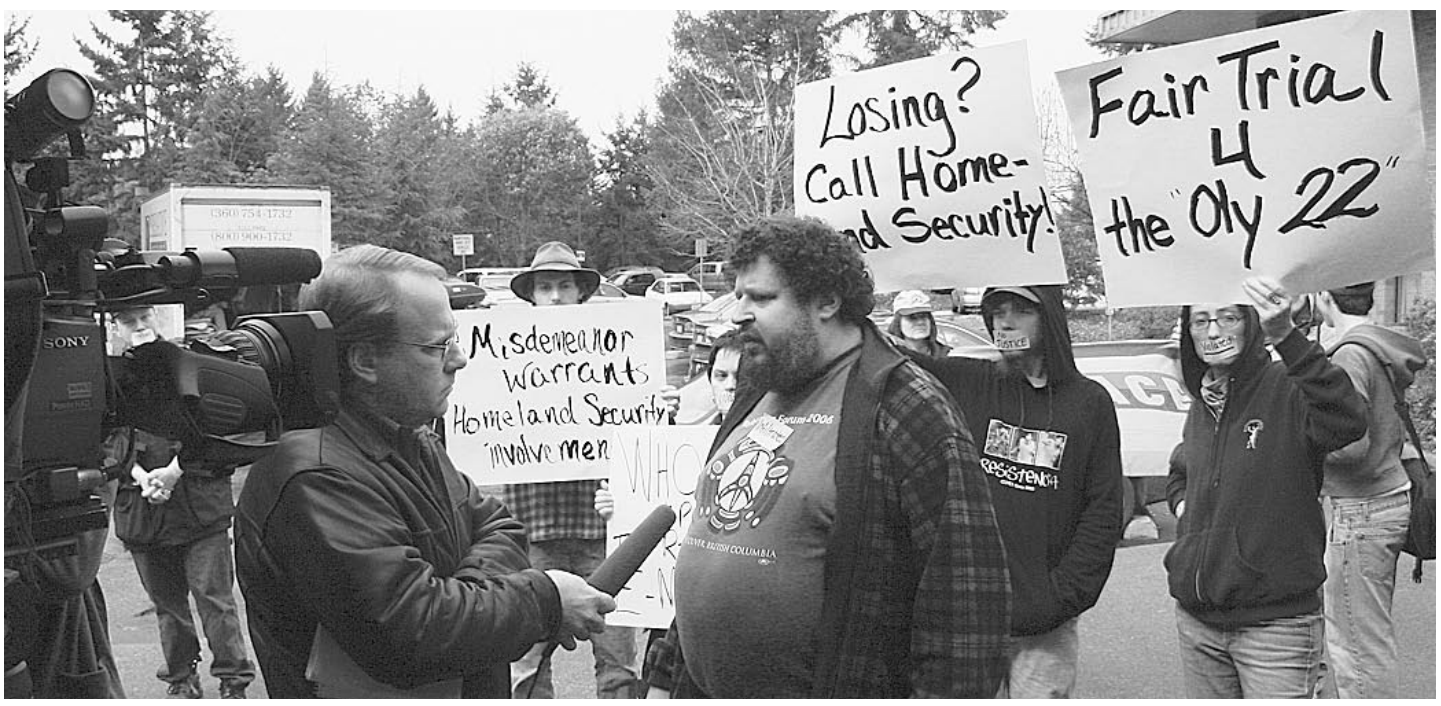
The mysterious email addresses

Following the mistrial, administrators of local activist email lists determined that both *edmund.bob@gmail.com* and *jaamto04@gmail.com* were possible government agents. They were discovered to have been lurking in numerous local activist lists. As soon as the administrators became suspicious of them, these two email entities started mysteriously unsubscribing themselves from activist mailing lists.

Local activists are currently investigating the extent of government or right-wing infiltration. They have so far determined that there was interest in these mailing lists by outside entities at least since mid-February, possibly coinciding with organizing around the Port Militarization Resistance and Fort Lewis's shipment of Stryker vehicles through the Port of Tacoma.

Pierce County prosecutors had been present during the entire length of the trial, taking notes.

Following the mistrial, the jurors informed the defendants that they were already leaning 7 to 1 in favor of a "not guilty" verdict, because the prosecution had been presenting such a poor case.



Attorney Larry Hildes speaks to a reporter as demonstrators protest the dirty tricks used by the prosecution and the Thurston County Sherriffs Office on March 30, the day after the mistrial for the Oly 22. Phot by Rob Whitlock.

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Volume 17, No. 12

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April 2007

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This is what democracy looks like...

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In this month's *Works in Progress*:

Port Militarization Resistance expands to Tacoma;
Rachel Corrie lives on, despite clueless smear campaign;
Meet your new sister – Rafah;
Italy, despite not being France, hates US imperialism;
and Oly 22 mistrial exposes government surveillance of local activists!

Felony assault charges dropped for three assaulted activists

Pictured below, from left to right, are Karen Weill, Caitlin Esworthy, Jeff Berryhill, and Wally Cuddeford, following the arraignment of the latter three in Pierce County Superior Court on March 6, 2007. The three had been attacked by riot police while peacefully demonstrating against George Bush's troop "surge" at the Port of Tacoma on March 4, and then ironically charged with felony assault. The charges were summarily dropped at the start of the arraignment.

Karen Weill, a member of their legal team, was charged with obstruction at the Port of Tacoma on March 5. Although the Prosecutors Office had initially declined to file charges against Weill, it did so almost two weeks later, after learning that she was part of the legal team representing many of the other Port of Tacoma arrestees. (Photo by Sandy Mayes)